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Letter dated 2 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to a terrorist attack which occurred today in the heart of Jerusalem.

At approximately 3 p.m. today local time, a car bomb exploded near the crowded market place of Mahane Yehuda, a site which has previously been the target of terrorist activities. The blast killed two civilians, Mr. Chanan Levy and Ms. Ayelet Hashahar-Levy, and injured several others in the vicinity.

In a statement released to news agencies in Beirut, the Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack, saying "The Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Brigades, the military arm of the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, declare their responsibility for the heroic operation carried out this afternoon in the heart of occupied Jerusalem." In Gaza, Hamas leader Mahmoud a-Zahar praised the bombing.

Israel holds the Palestinian Authority responsible for this atrocity. In recent weeks the Palestinian Authority has released scores of Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorist prisoners who had been convicted of carrying out attacks against Israelis. Chairman Arafat also invited leading members of these organizations to participate in Cabinet meetings, in a tacit, if not direct, endorsement of their tactics. Israel has warned the Palestinian Authority repeatedly that these actions, apart from being a gross violation of our signed agreements, would constitute a green light to commence terrorist attacks inside Israel. The Palestinian Authority failed to heed these warnings and today we have seen the tragic results of that failure.

It should be noted that this attack comes less than 24 hours after an agreement was reached between Chairman Arafat and Minister for Regional Cooperation Shimon Peres, whereby both sides agreed to resume security cooperation and take steps to implement the provisions of the Sharm Al-Sheikh understanding.

We call once again upon the Palestinian leadership to fulfil their obligations to bring about an end to hostilities, to cease all forms of incitement in the official media and to refrain from even indirectly sanctioning the use of terrorist action against Israeli civilians.

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I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 164, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative